

Ending Cancer As We Know It – For All

Douglas R. Lowy, M.D.
Acting Director, National Cancer Institute

September 28, 2022

87th Meeting of the NCI Council of Research Advocates

New Members – Welcome!



Joya Delgado Harris
Executive Director, Gold Standard,
CEO Roundtable on Cancer



Nathaniel Ferre
Program Administrator,
Huntsman Cancer Institute



Brittany Avin McKelvey
Science Policy Analyst,
Friends of Cancer Research



Marty Chakoian
Board Chair, ZERO and US TOO
Prostate Cancer



Robert Riter
Patient Advocate,
Physical Sciences Oncology Center, Cornell University

Today's Talk

- NCI News and Updates
- Research Advances
- Cancer Moonshot
- Budget Update

White House to Appoint New NCI Director Dr. Monica Bertagnolli



BRIEFING ROOM

President Biden Intends to Appoint Dr.
Monica Bertagnolli as Director of the
National Cancer Institute

AUGUST 10, 2022 • STATEMENTS AND RELEASES



White House Forum on Childhood Cancer

In recognition of National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

September 23, 2022



Photo: White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

Community-driven event hosted by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

Organized in collaboration with:

- Alliance for Childhood Cancer
- Coalition Against Childhood Cancer (CAC2)

NCI Panelists:

- **Dr. Greg Reaman**, incoming Scientific Director, NCI Childhood Cancer Data Initiative (CCDI)
- **Dr. Stephen Chanock**, Director, NCI Division of Cancer Epidemiology & Genetics (DCEG)

15th AACR Conference on the Science of Cancer Health Disparities in Racial/Ethnic Minorities and the Medically Underserved

September 16-19, 2022

Some take-home messages from my keynote address:

Addressing and overcoming (cancer) health disparities has become high profile with greater commitment.

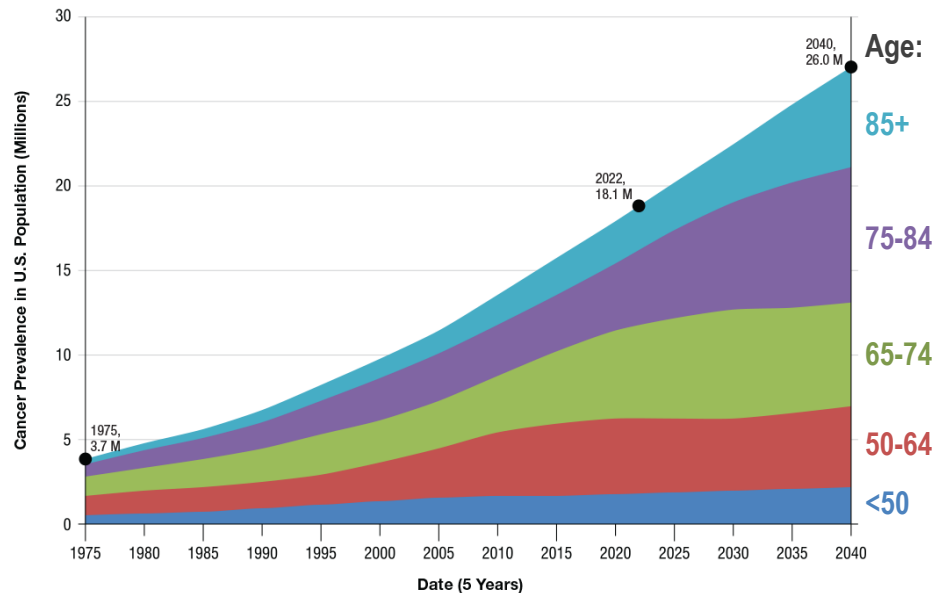
We have made some progress, but still have a long way to go address this multifaceted problem.

We must be inclusive in our research and the cancer research workforce.

We all have a role to play – whether focused on the U.S. or low- and middle-income countries. Our roles can span a wide range of research: from technology development aimed at reducing disparities – to research on affected populations.

Number of Cancer Survivors in U.S. Grows to 18M

Cancer Prevalence and Projections in U.S. Population from 1975–2040



Source: NCI Office of Cancer Survivorship

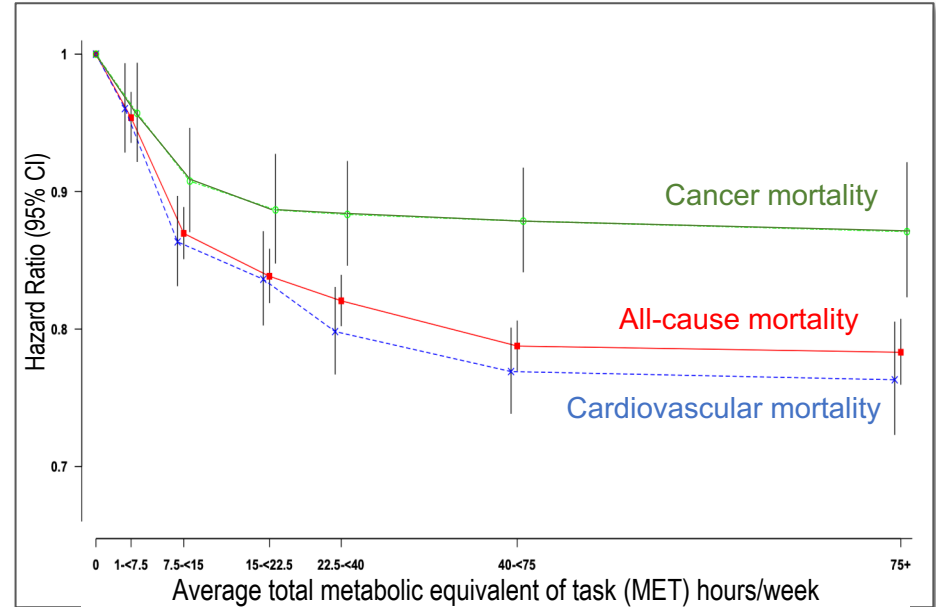
- **18.1 million cancer survivors** in the U.S. (as of January 2022)
- **26 million** by 2040 (projected)
- More than **two-thirds** are 65+



For more: Miller KD, et al. Cancer treatment and survivorship statistics, 2022. CA: A Cancer Journal for Clinicians. June 23, 2022.

New study: Many types of physical activity may lower risk of death for older adults

For older adults (age 59-82) getting 7.5-15 MET/week of physical activity, risk of death decreased – *regardless of type of activity.*



Watts EL, et al. Association of Leisure Time Physical Activity Types and Risks of All-Cause, Cardiovascular, and Cancer Mortality Among Older Adults. JAMA Network Open. August 24, 2022.

NCI Intramural Research Program:

Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics (DCEG)

NCI Press Release

A healthy lifestyle may help former smokers lower their risk of death from all causes

Posted: September 22, 2022

Contact: [NCI Press Office](#)
240-760-6600

Former smokers who stick to a healthy lifestyle have a lower risk of dying from all causes than those who don't engage in healthy habits, according to a new study by researchers at NCI [↗](#), part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The reduced risk of dying was observed for specific causes, including cancer and heart and lung diseases. Lifestyle interventions have not been robustly studied in former smokers, and these new findings could have important implications for the 52 million former smokers in the United States.

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle—defined as doing things such as being physically active and having a healthy diet—was associated with a 27% reduction in the risk of death over the 19-year follow-up period, compared with not maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

The findings, which appeared Sept. 22, 2022, in *JAMA Network Open*, come from an analysis of a large group of former smokers who participated in the [NIH-AARP Diet and Health Study](#).

"I was surprised to see the robust associations [with lifestyle]," said Maki Inoue-Choi, Ph.D., of the Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics at NCI, lead author of the paper.



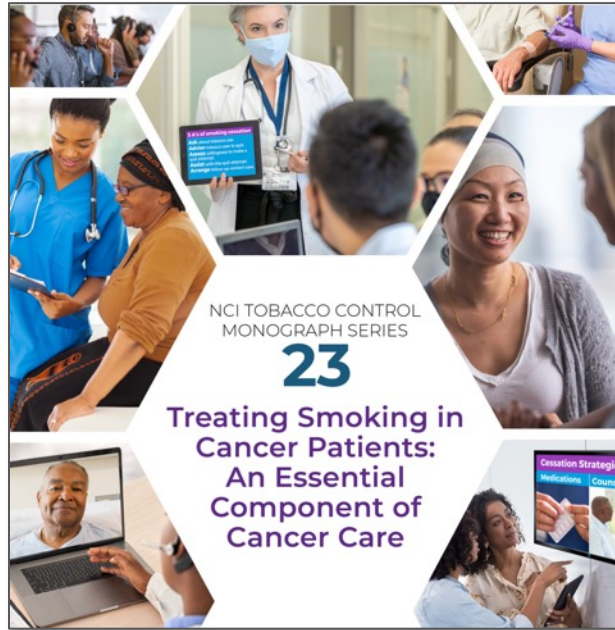
Healthy lifestyle recommendations include maintaining a healthy body weight, being physically active, eating a healthy diet, and limiting alcohol consumption.

Credit: "Water bottle, apples, measuring tape and towel on white wooden background. Top view" by Marco Verch Professional Photographer. CC BY 2.0.

Learn more: dceg.cancer.gov

Smoking Cessation in Cancer Patients

NCI Tobacco Control Monograph 23 (June 2022)



Smoking cessation in cancer patients is among the most effective treatment options for:

- improving the likelihood of survival,
- quality of life, and
- overall health of cancer patients who smoke.

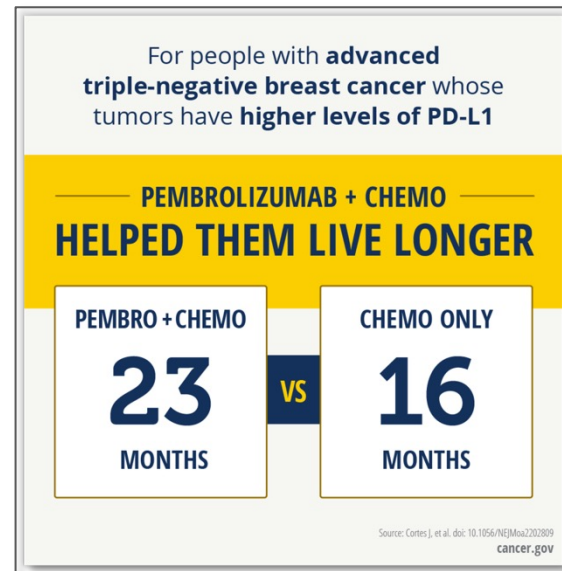
It is important for cancer care clinicians and patients to realize:

- It is *never too late* to quit smoking.
- There are *clear benefits* to quitting smoking – *regardless of cancer type*.

Pembrolizumab Improves Survival in Advanced Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

Adding pembrolizumab (an immunotherapy) to chemotherapy **can help some patients with advanced triple-negative breast cancer live longer**, compared to receiving chemotherapy alone.

FDA approved the combination therapy in 2020 for patients whose tumors have high levels of PD-L1 protein.



Cortes J, et al. Pembrolizumab plus Chemotherapy in Advanced Triple-Negative Breast Cancer. *New England Journal of Medicine*. July 21, 2022.

Ending Cancer As We Know It **For All**



President Biden Details Cancer Moonshot Progress

On the 60th Anniversary of President Kennedy's Moonshot Address

September 12, 2022



“Beating cancer is something we can do together.
And that’s why I’m here today.”

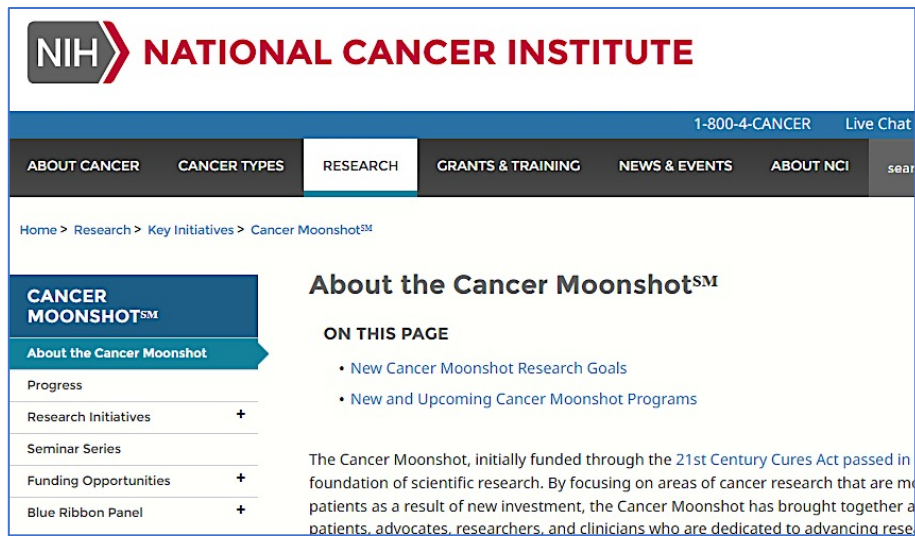
“I believe we can usher in the same unwillingness to postpone, the same national purpose that will serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills **to end cancer as we know it –** and even cure cancers once and for all.”

President Biden, September 12, 2022

John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum

Cancer Moonshot Next Phase

Jumpstarting Three Programs



**CANCER MOONSHOT
SCHOLARS**



TELEHEALTH



MULTI-CANCER DETECTION

Learn more: cancer.gov/moonshot

Cancer Moonshot Scholars program

Cancer Moonshot Scholars: Tapping a Deep Pool of Talent



[Subscribe](#)

September 21, 2022, by NCI Acting Director Dr. Douglas R. Lowy and CRCHD Director Dr. Sanya A. Springfield

The Cancer Moonshot Scholars program aims to advance cancer science while also diversifying the pool of researchers and the approaches to cancer research that NCI funds. In this edition of the NCI Bottom Line blog, Drs. [Lowy](#) and [Springfield](#) provide details on the innovative program and encourage eligible Early-Stage Investigators to apply to become a Cancer Moonshot Scholar. [The funding opportunity announcement](#) is now published, and the first application due date is November 8, 2022.

In February 2022, from the East Room of the White House, with the support of cancer patients, clinicians, advocates, leaders of the House and Senate, and experts in cancer research from across the United States, President Biden announced plans “to supercharge the Cancer Moonshot™ as a central effort of the Biden-Harris administration.”

In his remarks, the President announced a series of bold, achievable goals: cutting cancer deaths in half within 25 years, reducing cancer health disparities while addressing the needs of underserved patients, and ending cancer as we know it today. President Biden also announced the formation of a Cancer Cabinet, with representatives from 24 federal agencies, including NCI.

In a [fact sheet](#) announcing decisions from the first meeting of the Cancer Cabinet, the Biden-Harris administration committed to establishing a Cancer Moonshot Scholars program “to inspire and support the next generation of world-class and diverse scientists and health innovators.” Cancer Moonshot Scholars will focus their research careers on “breakthroughs that will make a difference for patients and drive progress toward the goal of ending cancer as we know it today.”



NCI Acting Director Dr. Lowy and Director of NCI's Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities Dr. Sanya Springfield
Credit: National Cancer Institute



cancer.gov/moonshotscholars



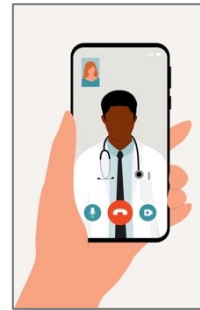
Telehealth Research Centers of Excellence

NCI will award \$23 million to 4 academic institutions to establish centers of excellence to conduct research on *how telehealth can contribute to improved cancer-related health care.*

Four funded centers:

- NYU Grossman School of Medicine
- Northwestern University
- University of Pennsylvania
- Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Learn more at:
cancer.gov/moonshot



CANCER MOONSHOT

Supported by the Cancer Moonshot.

Increasing enrollment of underrepresented groups to NCI clinical trials: New phase of Cancer Moonshot



Goal: Mimic at-risk population for the specific cancer studied



Need greater investment (e.g., community engagement)



More diversity among health care providers

Increasing enrollment of underrepresented groups to NCI clinical trials: *A long-term commitment*

NCI Clinical Trials

NCORP: NCI Community Oncology Research Program

NCTN: NCI's National Clinical Trials Network

1999-2001	2017-2019
14% minority	25% minority

- Most of the increase has been in Black/African American and Hispanic populations

NCI Summit on Increasing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Early Phase Clinical Trials (Nov. 16, 2022)

Aim: Identify and discuss the implementation of best practices for increasing inclusion and equity in NCI cancer clinical trials.

Hosted by NCI Equity & Inclusion Program
November 16, 2022

Registration information forthcoming at
cancer.gov and Twitter (@theNCI)

Session topics (tentative):

- ✓ Regulatory expectations and policies for increasing diversity in clinical trials
- ✓ DEI success stories
- ✓ Hearing from community health workers and patient advocates
- ✓ Partnerships to promote equity and inclusion in NCI trials

Supporting more R01 research grant awards:

A top priority for NCI

NCI SUPPORT FOR THE CANCER RESEARCH ENTERPRISE

Cancer Researchers

R01s and other grants provide funds for investigator-initiated research projects; those researchers also need other resources to power their work.

NCI FUNDING

NCI funds programs, platforms, and people to power the cancer research enterprise. These investment areas depend on each other and interact dynamically in a complex system to produce improved health outcomes.

Clinical Trials Networks

NCI's clinical trials networks are essential for testing new approaches and expanding options for people with cancer.

These components are not a comprehensive representation of NCI investments.



Specialized Technologies

Through the Frederick National Laboratory for Cancer Research, NCI provides researchers access to specialized technologies and platforms, such as databases and repositories.

IMPROVED OUTCOMES

NCI-supported scientists, research, and programs **collectively** improve our understanding of cancer biology; produce new approvals for cancer prevention, diagnosis, and treatment; and enhance patient care.



Infrastructure

Researchers at NCI-Designated Cancer Centers rely on the critical infrastructure supported by NCI funding.

cancer.gov

PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

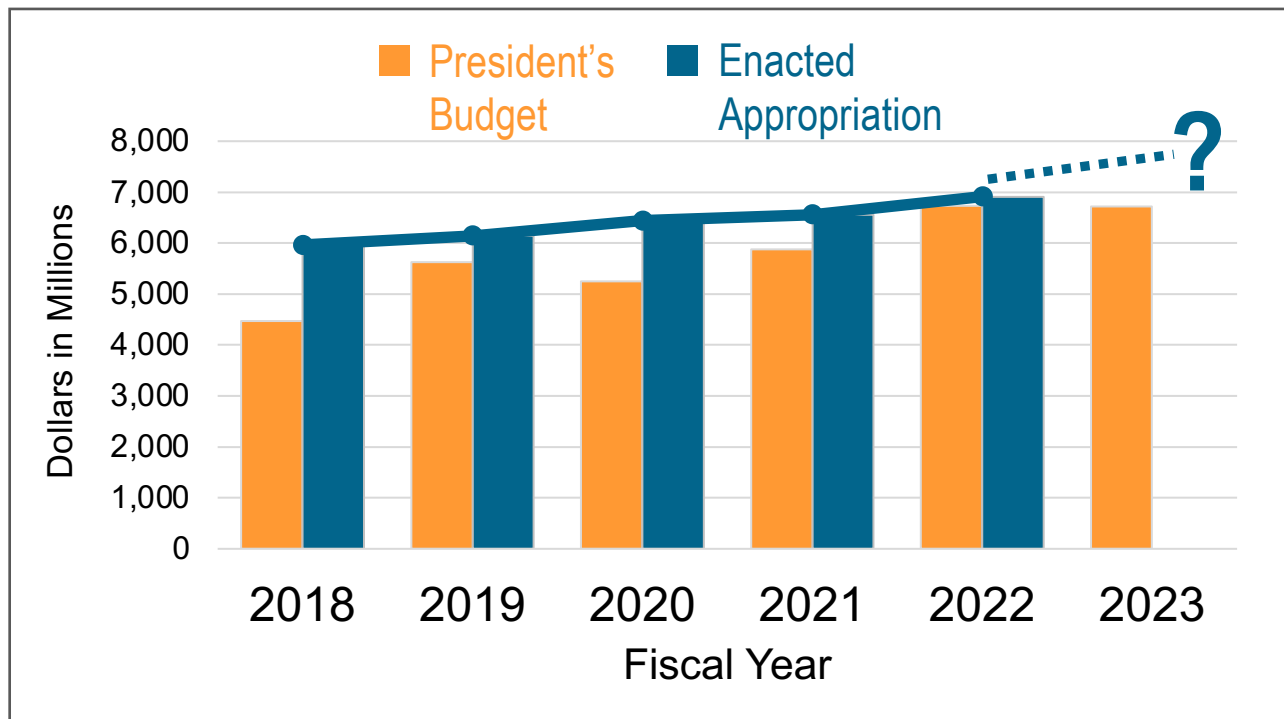
(DOLLARS IN MILLIONS)

Prior (FY 2023) Professional Judgment Budget Proposal	\$7,550*	
Proposed Budget Increase for FY 2024 to Seize Opportunities for Progress	\$1,166	\$354 Cancer Biology Research \$247 Cancer Prevention Research \$192 Cancer Detection & Diagnosis Research \$227 Cancer Treatment Research \$86 Public Health & Cancer Control Research \$60 Training & Infrastructure
Funding to Revolutionize Cancer Clinical Research†	\$1,272	
FY 2024 TOTAL	\$9,988	

*This proposal includes \$50 million for the Childhood Cancer Data Initiative, a 10-year initiative that began in FY 2020.

†This proposed funding will be used to achieve the goals of reducing cancer death rates by 50% over the next 25 years and ending cancer as we know it for all.

President's NCI Budget and Enacted Appropriations



Source: NCI Budget Fact Book

- Strong bipartisan support for cancer research across Congress
- Congress has declined to cut funding to cancer research – even in challenging budget cycles

Thank you!

www.cancer.gov

www.cancer.gov/espanol

1-800-4-CANCER

NCInfo@nih.gov

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